

Keeping Youth SAFE as best as you can
Tips: in home parties

Be prepared:

- Discuss all the party plans with all family members.
- Determine which adults will be present for the entire time of the party
- With the help of your teen determine the responsibilities
- Determine how to have the phone numbers for guest parent or guardian in case of emergency
- What time will the party begin and end? How late do you want to stay up? What is going on the next day? Allow for travel time when deciding on a curfew.
- Are other parents aware of the hours of the party? Keep in mind the provisional driver license restrictions. (12 am to 5 am)
- Encourage parents to call before the party. Be sure they know when the party ends so they know when to expect their teen.
- Develop a signal or code with your teen in case they need help
- Have a plan B in case of postponement due to bad weather, illness etc.
- Determine if the party is indoors, outdoors or both.

Inside:

- Identify which areas of the house are permissible to be in.
- Check bathroom medicine cabinet and remove all medicines for the night.
- If there is a recreation room refrigerator, monitor that.
- Secure your own alcohol supply.
- Secure any valuable or breakable items.
- Extra adults can rotate their “assignments” to reduce “boredom”.
- Take random walks throughout your home: upstairs, basement, deck.
- Check spaces off limits for the party: enable private, passionate encounters.

Outside:

- Let neighbors know so that they will understand about the increase number of parked cars in the neighborhood. Check for parking and outside lighting.
- Police can patrol your area if you want. Contact District Community Resource Offer:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/districts/whatsmydistrict.html>
Ample notice is required; the officer may be out of the office. Plan ahead
- Keep the front and back lights on
- Take random walks: back yard, front yard, driveway, check bushes, fencing, or tree line, under the deck, in the garage, roadsides and nearby parking areas [drinking/drug use take place in vehicles]

House rules:

- Develop rules about alcohol, marijuana/other drugs, and smoking/vaping.
- Communicate house rules to all
- Do all the guests know that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are not allowed in your home?
- What will you do if these substances show up at your party?
Who will you call-parents or police?
- Decide where coats, purses, or bags are to be stored during the party. Restrict access. Keep them and secure: a specific room, lock the door, adult monitor the possessions?
A monitor will reduce items getting mixed up upon leaving

Will larger bag for a change of clothes be allowed? You have every right to look inside bags, purses, backpacks, etc.

Use vinyl gloves as you do not know the nature of the contents!

- Decide which door will be used for entrance and exit. Choosing one will reduce the chances of unwanted guests.
- How bright will the room lights be? How dim will the lights be? How will the room be monitored?
- Be visible during the entire party
- Determine how to indicate when the party is over: all lights on, music off, clear directions for leaving [be prepared for late leaving guests due to ride arrangements, etc.]

Guest strategies:

- Invitations and a guest list are tools. They offer a way to limit the number at the party and provide names and phone numbers in case these are needed in an emergency, illness, accidental injury, etc.
- Check each person off upon arrival.
- Make sure guests know how to get home after the party.
- Determine how many guests you can handle in your home.
- Internet invitations usually reach more than the intended guests.
- Recommendation: once a guest is in the party, do not allow them to leave unless they are ready to go home. Sometimes car trunks, underneath bushes, behind garden walls hide the alcohol or other drugs.
- How will you handle party crashers? Remember word of mouth is the fastest means of communication
- Call police if problems arise: non-emergency 301-279-8000 or emergency 911

Food service:

- Allow parents to contribute to the refreshments. Schedule them throughout the evening so they have an opportunity to “see” how things are going.
- Use small serving bowls/dishes/baskets for snacks/refreshments so that you have the opportunity to refill them often through out the party.
Circulate; be the “server”
- Beverages can be served from one location: the kitchen for example.
Fill the kitchen sink with ice for sodas, juices, water to keep them cold.
- Keep in mind it is easier to monitor cups of beverages. Using cups will help with portion control or spillage. Empty cups encourage a guest to return for a refill. A fresh cup of beverage is safer than returning to a partial beverage that has been unattended.
- An adult should be present at the beverage station at all times.
- Often unattended open beverage containers are vulnerable to having drugs or alcohol added to the contents. Teach teens to get a fresh, unopened beverage.
- Periodic clean up affords the chance to observe.

Emergency preparedness:

- Flexible party plans. Keep in mind the main reason for the activity is SAFE, healthy fun.
- Plan where guests will congregate in case of an emergency evacuation.
Designate a person to make sure everyone has left the home safely.

- What to do if an adult or youth arrives drunk, high, or smelling of alcohol?
- What to do if a fight breaks out? [separate the involved persons from the larger group, determine which adults will assist, determine where in the house each will go, be sure to have another adult to watch over the remaining youth]
- Remind the teens to look out for each other. Do not leave someone passed out, unattended (under a bed, in a closet, behind the furnace) It is better to call 911.
http://bha.dhbmh.maryland.gov/OVERDOSE_PREVENTION/Pages/Good-Samaritan-Law.aspx
- Sometimes an emergency arises: sprained ankle, unintentional fall, etc. Have contact information for each of the guests. Consider having two or more adults present. IF an emergency occurs one adult can tend to the emergency, the other can monitor the other guests.
- If a guest's parents are not available what is the plan in an emergency?
- Numbers to have handy: 911, police nonemergency number: 301-279-8000

After the party is over:

- Have your teen help clean up the party areas
- Debrief: what worked well, what needs improvement, what will not be done again?

Laws:

Maryland

- Remember that it is illegal to serve, provide, or furnish alcohol to children under the age of 21
- Effective October 1, 2016, Alex and Calvin's Law:
Prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully allowing an individual under 21 years old to possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at a residence the person owns or leases and in which the person resides or furnishing an alcoholic beverage for consumption to an individual under 21 years old if the adult knew or reasonably should have known the individual would operate a motor vehicle and did operate the vehicle under the influence of alcohol and caused serious injury or death; etc. Maryland Criminal law 10-116 & 10-117
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2016rs&id=HB0409>

National

- Remember it is illegal to permit smoking for children under the age of 18.
Many kids are vaping now and it is difficult for parents to detect due to lack of odor.
Nicotine delivery system: e-cigarettes, e-cig, hookah pen, e-hookah, vape pipe. Regular or flavored
Also an instrument for smoking Marijuana.
Maryland and Federal tobacco sales laws:
http://dhbmh.maryland.gov/notobaccosalestominors/Documents/ctpc_federal_chart.pdf
Many kids are vaping now and it is difficult for parents to detect due to lack of odor.
- Legal drinking age: 21

For further assistance, call 301-670-SAFE (7233).

Keeping It SAFE: Under 21 alcohol prevention coalition, 240-777-6652 or

dlc.kis@montgomerycountymd.gov

Under 21 alcohol use is illegal, unhealthy, and unacceptable

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